



ORTAB
Advisory Board
August 12, 2005
550 W 7th Ave., Ste. 1270
Anchorage, Alaska

Board Chair called meeting to order @ 8:00 a.m.

Members Present:

- Bobby Andrew –Dillingham
- Susie Byersdorfer – Kodiak
- Ken Lancaster – Soldotna
- Rich Macintyre – Sitka
- Gia Hanna – Kotzebue
- Bruce Friend - Chugach

- Bish Buckle, Chair – Wasilla
- Wendell Shiffler – Fairbanks

Members Absent:

- Paul Sandhofer

Staff Present:

- Margaret Brodie –Admin. & Grants Manager
- Samantha Carroll –Rec. Trails Coordinator
- Sandra Cleveland – Admin Assistant
- Jerry Lewanski, Director

The new State Parks Director, Jerry Lewanski was introduced. Jerry thanked the board for participating and offered his help as an advocate of trails in Alaska.

The Board members introduced themselves and spoke briefly on their backgrounds.

Meeting turned over to Alaska State Park staff – Samantha Carroll

Alaska Trails Initiative Application Score Reporting

The Board having reviewed the applications prior to the meeting had some questions concerning scoring differences between individuals and the use of bonus points. The results of the discussion urged each reviewer be consistent in their use of the scoring process. Some review may tend to grade high over all and others would tend to grade lower overall. This is acceptable, because when the scores of all reviewers are combined, the placement of each project with its total score would be in its relative order of importance. This scoring process is important because it is a fair and equitable system that provides a consistent public record of the decision-making process.

There were some suggestions for minor revisions to the scoring sheets, which would facilitate scoring, and providing for reviewer comments.

The staff point out that as soon as the Board finished the funding recommendations the Alaska Trails Initiative monies would be obligated by FHWA/WFLHD (Federal Highway Administration – Western Federal Lands Highway Division).

Having project requests totaling over \$8.3 million and only \$3.8 million to distribute, the board then followed a two-step process in their deliberations. The first step was a discussion of each application to assure that each member had a common understanding of the project information and phases insofar as the information was available in the application. The following are summary notes of these discussions.

The second step was making recommendations for distribution of the available funds. Priority consideration was given project phases for items such as meeting a safety or pressing public need, readiness for the project to be completed in the near future, public support for the project, the potential for funding from other sources, and meeting grant criteria. The members of the Board unanimously derived the following recommendations.

Russian River Anglers Trail Proposal

Discussion:

- Discussion of project phases.
- Federal agency applying for funds they may have other means to obtain these sorts of funding.

Iditarod Historic Trail- Chugach National Forest

Discussion:

- Federal agency is the applicant; possible other resources for funding.
- Board questioned why two applications were submitted on behalf of the Iditarod Trail. The applicants were able to provide adequate documentation that Senator Steven's office intended for both groups, the Chugach National Forest and the Iditarod Trail Committee to be recipients of these funds.
- This application had proof of agency support but not public support

Arctic Valley Trails

Discussion:

- Board had no questions or comments on this application, at this time.

Juneau Nordic Trails

Discussion:

- Applicant did not follow directions. No timeline and no information on why they needed all the equipment.

Matanuska-Susitna Gorsuch Trails

Discussion:

- This proposal includes a road that has not been built and is probably 2-3 years in the future.

Hatcher Pass Trails

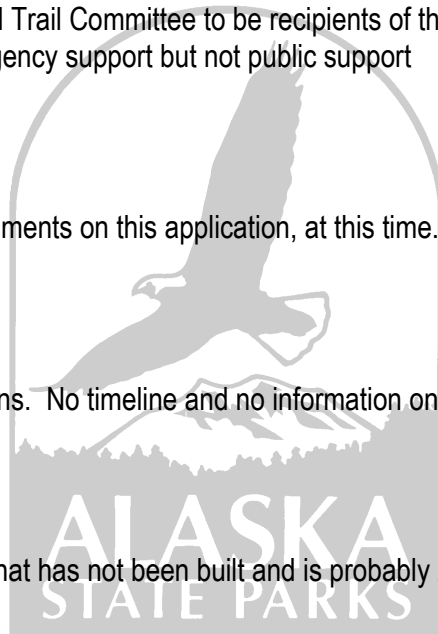
Discussion:

- Applicant did not provide enough information on work crews, which were high school students being led by teachers. Members discussed the utility of these crews. The crews are student conservation groups that are usually college students from around the country that can accomplish the work in a few days, which would take others longer.
- Concern that boardwalks were only going to be two feet wide.

Kodiak Trails

Discussion:

- This application had 3 different proposals. It was confusing for members on how to score. The Ft. Abercrombie proposal was the only complete application.
- Money will only be allocated to the portion of the grant that has been approved here today.



Iditarod Trail- Iditarod Trail Committee

Discussion:

- Application was missing information on users; maps were not readable and lacked information on a Long-term maintenance plan.

Sitka Trail Works

Discussion:

- Applicant expressed a need for these funds to write grants to obtain additional financial support.

Girdwood Trails

Discussion:

- Board had no questions or comments on this application, at this time.

State of Alaska Wildlife Trails

Discussion:

- A website will be helpful in distribution of this material.
- Proposal was not broken out into phases.

Wrangell St Elias-Caribou Creek

Discussion:

- Not many users would benefit for the amount of money requested.

Wrangell St. Elias-Crystalline Hills Trailhead

Discussion:

- This application is roadside rest stop; available for more users.
- No long-term maintenance plan and no information on who would be in charge of operations.

Juneau Thunder

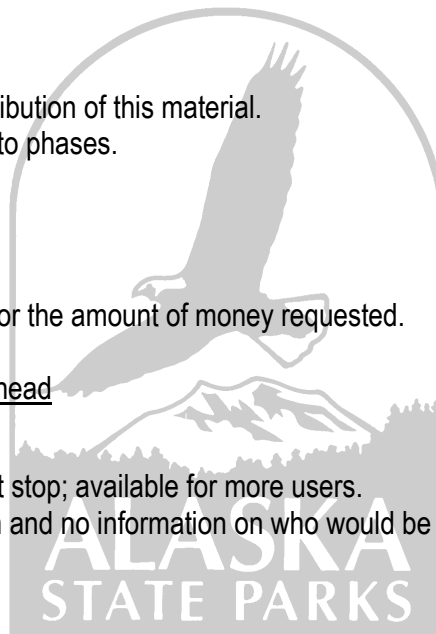
Discussion:

- Applicant did not follow application instructions.
- Budget issues
- Application needed phases that completed a portion of the project with examples provided.

Perseverance Trail Repairs

Discussion:

- Concerns around if the applicant did not receive all funding requested that the trail would soon become a safety issue.
- Lacking detailed information on project rock blasting to clear the trail.
- Many safety issues on the trail at this point.
- If the applicant could not afford the engineer, they would not be able to provide the information needed in regard to blasting of rock materials.
- The engineer survey would be very expensive.



Sitka World War II Causeway

Discussion:

- Although the project was laid out in phases, it was confusing as to what was proposed in each phase and what was going to be completed.
 - Historical information was well presented within the application.
 - Permitting costs and the time associated for preparation of information to meet requirements in obtaining permits.
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- Board suggested a process to fund application based on ranking phases. There was additional discussion on how this should be accomplished. It will be on record that project funding will be based on phases.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ALASKA TRAIL INITIATIVE

Sitka Trail Works

It is recommended that Sitka Trail Works be awarded \$450,000 for Phase I.

Girdwood Trails

It is recommended that Girdwood Trails be awarded \$104,000 for Phase I

Kodiak Trails

It is recommended that Kodiak Trails be awarded \$ 322,128 (Ft. Abercrombie) for all Phases

Iditarod Trail – Chugach National Forest

It is recommended that the Iditarod Trail be awarded \$308,000 for Phase I

Perseverance Trail Repairs - Fully funded

It is recommended that the Perseverance Trail Repairs be awarded \$736,212 for all Phases

Juneau Nordic Trail

It is recommended that the Juneau Nordic Trail be awarded \$ 98,800 for planning and development

Break for lunch at 12:05 & Reconvened at 1:15pm

Russian River Anglers Trail

It is recommended that the Russian River Anglers Trail project be awarded \$ 425,297

Hatcher Pass Trails - Fully funded

It is recommended that the Hatcher Pass Trails be awarded \$188,513.00 for all Phases

Arctic Valley

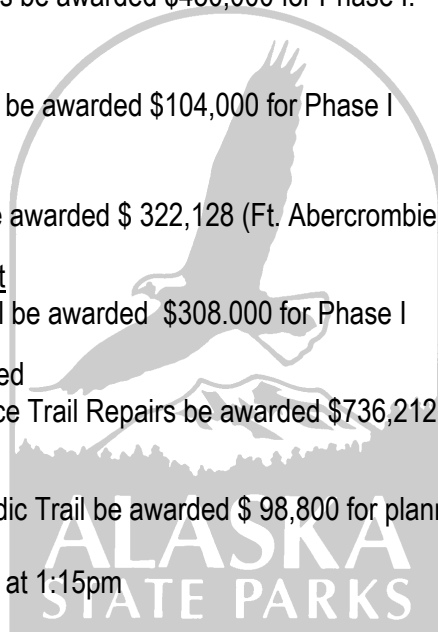
It is recommended that the Arctic Valley be awarded \$ 108,000 for Phase 1 and part of Phase II which includes interp signs

Sitka World War II Causeway:

It is recommended that the Sitka World War II Caseway be awarded \$ 150,000 for Phase I.

Iditarod Trail –Iditarod Trail Committee- Fully funded

It is recommended that the Iditarod Trail Enhancement Project be awarded \$ 480,000 for all Phases



Juneau Thunder Trails

It is recommended that the Juneau Thunder Trails be awarded \$100,000 for Phase I

Wrangell St. Elias

It is recommended that the Caribou Creek Trail be awarded \$ 0; applicant did not phase the project.

State of Alaska Wildlife Trails

It is recommended that the State of AK Wildlife Trails be awarded \$248,000 for all phases.

Matanuska Susitna Gorsuch Trails

It is recommended that the Matanuska Gorsuch Trails project be awarded \$28,000 for planning and engineering.

Wrangell St. Elias – Fully funded

It is recommended that the Crystalline hills Trailhead project be awarded \$53,500 for phase I.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

The Board review staff's proposals for expenditures of RTP funds remaining after the grant awards and agreed to distribute within Park units. Distribution is as follows:

- Chugach State Park, park wide signs, total project cost = \$42,000
- Southeast area, Mt. Roberts Trailhead Rehabilitation, total project cost = \$6,250
- Northern area, Chena River SRA, total project cost = \$25,391
- Kodiak area, Ft. Abercrombie & Shuyak Island SRA, total project cost = \$6,000
- Kenai area, Seward trail & Woshnesenski River Trail, total project cost = \$21,720
- Mat-Su area, Snow Groomer, total project cost \$216,000

Other Items of interest

- The RTP program is required to be within the State's Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), which has been increased to \$750,000 from \$693,000, for the next two years.
- For additional project funding the Alaska Trails Initiative applicants are eligible for Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants. RTP applications are due on 12/1/05 and there will be an ORTAB meeting soon after that to score RTP applications. Alaska Trails Initiative applicants can request information on what they scored low on and make improvements for the Recreational Trail grants process. The cap on RTP is \$50,000, which is an increase from \$30,000 last year.

Trail Ethics: Proposal to produce trail videos for ethics and safety. Posting this information at recreation sites. Need a plan proposal for implementation. It was agreed that it should begin with the young people. Alaska State Parks will explore options to fund; it is possible to apply for a RTP grant to accomplish this. Only 5% of the RTP program can allocate to Environmental Protection and Safety Education, according to federal guidelines.

ADA Accessibility: Guidelines were handed out on ADA accessibility.

Board Member Terms: Before the next meeting three Board members will have expired terms. ASP staff announced that if they want to continue membership on the ORTAB board, to submit a letter of interest and if not to please give recommendations for others that may be interested. Email submissions are acceptable.

- Board requested that Staff prepare an application checklist before it comes to Board for review. Staff reviews applications prior to them being sent to Board members for their scores. Board decided that a comment section will be added to each section of the score sheet and pages, and will be printed landscape.
- Board members critiqued how the process went. The Board acknowledged the short notices efforts that the Alaska Trails Initiative applicants make and thanked staff for their efforts in expediting the process and meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm

skc

